



TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

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PRESENTED BY

Sydney Film Festival

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TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL VISITS:

NT Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine
QLD Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Nambour, Toowoomba, Townsville
NSW Huskisson, Nambucca Heads, Newcastle, Port Macquarie,
Sawtell, Tamworth, Ulladulla, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong
TFF AT SEA Sydney to Tasmania



Distinguished Partner



Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia and the New South Wales Government through Screen NSW and is supported by media partner ABC Mid North Coast and distinguished partner Princess Cruises.

SCHEDULE

NAMBUCCA HEADS

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

6.00PM OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

7.00PM MADAME (18+) screens with short film THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

6.30PM LADY MACBETH (MA15+)

8.30PM WHITNEY 'CAN I BE ME' (M)

SAWTELL

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

6.00PM OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

7.00PM ALI'S WEDDING (15+)

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

12.00PM HOPE ROAD (All Ages)

2.30PM POP AYE (M) screens with short film FINDING MAAWIRRANGGA

5.00PM ON BODY AND SOUL (18+)

7.30PM THE BEGUILED (M)

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

1.15PM I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO (M)

3.15PM THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE (15+) screens with short film THE WALL

5.15PM LADY MACBETH (MA15+)

7.15PM WIND RIVER (MA15+)

PORT MACQUARIE

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

6.00PM OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

7.00PM ALI'S WEDDING (15+)

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

12.00PM MOUNTAIN (All Ages) screens with short film SNOW

2.00PM POP AYE (M)

4.30PM LADY MACBETH (MA15+)

7.30PM FUN MOM DINNER (18+)

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

12.00PM THE TEACHER (M)

2.00PM WHITNEY 'CAN I BE ME' (M)

4.30PM UNA (M)

7.00PM MADAME (18+) screens with short film THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

MID NORTH COAST MAJESTIC CINEMAS

NAMBUCCA HEADS 7 – 8 SEPTEMBER
SAWTELL 8 – 10 SEPTEMBER
PORT MACQUARIE 15 – 17 SEPTEMBER

OPENING NIGHT MADAME



NAMBUCCA HEADS THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM

Please join us from 6pm for our Opening Night Reception

Directed by Amanda Sthers | France | In English | 90 mins | 18+

Toni Collette, Harvey Keitel, Rosy de Palma and Michael Smiley star in this romantic comedy about an unexpected love affair that starts at dinner and spreads to the Paris streets.

Anne (Collette; *Fun Mom Dinner*) and Bob (Keitel), a wealthy, well-connected American couple, move into a manor in Paris. While preparing a luxurious dinner for sophisticated international friends, Anne discovers there are only 13 guests. So, she insists her loyal maid, Maria (Almodóvar regular Rosy de Palma; *Julieta*), disguise herself as a mysterious Spanish noblewoman to even out the numbers. Too much wine and some playful chat lead Maria to endear herself to a dandy British artbroker (Smiley; *My Name is Emily*). Their budding romance soon has Anne chasing her maid around Paris, reinventing the truth and finally plotting to destroy this most unexpected and joyous love affair.

“With a narrative that turns a case of dinner party subterfuge into an opposites-attract, culture class romantic comedy, Sther’s second feature... is buoyant...” – SCREENDAILY

Madame also screens in Port Macquarie Sunday 17 Septemeber 7.00PM

Screens with *The Eleven O'Clock*

OPENING NIGHT ALI'S WEDDING



SAWTELL FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM

PORT MACQUARIE FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM

Please join us from 6pm for our Opening Night Reception

Directed by Jeffrey Walker | Australia | In English, Arabic and Farsi with English subtitles | 110 mins | 15+

WINNER: FOXTEL 2017 MOVIES AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE AT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Ali's arranged marriage is looming, but he loves someone else. What's a Muslim cleric's son to do?

Truth is stranger than fiction. *Ali's Wedding* is based on the real-life experience of lead actor Osamah Sami, whose arranged marriage lasted less than two hours. The smart screenplay by Sami and Andrew Knight (*Hacksaw Ridge*, *Rake*, *Jack Irish*) tells a humorous, authentic and poignant tale about family life in multicultural Australia. Stylishly directed by Jeffrey Walker (*Modern Family*, *Angry Boys*), the film boasts a terrific cast including Don Hany as Ali's father and delightful newcomer Helana Sawires as Dianne, the Lebanese-Australian medical student who sends Ali's heartbeat racing. The time is right for a feel-good winner like *Ali's Wedding*.

“Original, hilarious and flat-out charming, *Ali's Wedding* takes the conventions of a genre and uses them to hold up a mirror to a nation.” – THE REEL BITS

TICKET PRICING

NAMBUCCA HEADS

SINGLE TICKETS

\$14 Adult | \$12 Concession | \$10 Kids/ Student/Under 26

SAWTELL AND PORT MACQUARIE

SINGLE TICKETS

\$14 Adult | \$12 Concession | \$10 Kids/ Student/Under 26

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE:

FULL SUBSCRIPTION*

\$81 Adult | \$72 Concession

*Includes Opening Night Reception

5-FILM FLEXIPASS

\$53 Adult | \$48 Concession

Subscriptions are transferable but admit only one person per film.

Concessions: unemployed, pensioners and seniors, upon presentation of ID.

All films start at the advertised time – we do not screen ads.

All details correct at time of printing but subject to change without notice.

Front image: *Lady Macbeth*

HOW TO BOOK

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE
IN ADVANCE AT:

sff.org.au/nambuccaheads

sff.org.au/sawtell

sff.org.au/portmacquarie

BY PHONE: (02) 8220 6600

IN PERSON: At the venue

MAJESTIC CINEMAS

NAMBUCCA HEADS

Pacific Highway

Nambucca Heads NSW 2448

Phone: (02) 6568 6677

MAJESTIC CINEMAS

SAWTELL

First Avenue

Sawtell NSW 2452

Phone: (02) 5621 8101

MAJESTIC CINEMAS

PORT MACQUARIE

Cnr Horton and Clarence Streets

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Phone: (02) 6583 8400

FOR TICKET ENQUIRIES

Please contact Sydney Film Festival on 02 8220 6600 or contact the cinema box office.

LADY MACBETH



FRI 8 SEPT 6.30PM NAMBUCCA HEADS
SUN 10 SEPT 5.15PM SAWTELL
SAT 16 SEPT 4.30PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by William Oldroyd | UK | In English | 89 mins | 18+

The arranged marriage between beautiful Katherine and wealthy landowner Alexander is the beginning of a gripping and violent psychodrama that's far from a traditional bodice-ripper.

Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth doesn't appear in William Oldroyd's mightily impressive feature debut but her manipulative spirit inhabits every frame. Nikolai Leskov's 1865 novella has been vividly transported to Northumberland, where teenager Katherine (Florence Pugh, in a star-making performance) has been sold into marriage with Alexander (Paul Hilton), a wealthy and disinterested middle-aged man. It's not long before handsome and cocky groomsmen James (Cosmo Jarvis) catches Katherine's eye. Oldroyd's intense direction and Alice Birch's razor-sharp script take *Lady Macbeth* way beyond the confines of a traditional Victorian bodice-ripper. Katherine's burning desire for sexual freedom evolves into gripping and violent psychodrama in which the roles of victim and oppressor become memorably blurred.

"Imagine Alfred Hitchcock directing *Wuthering Heights* and you'll get an idea of William Oldroyd's tense period drama." – INDIEWIRE

WIND RIVER



SUN 10 SEPT 7.15PM SAWTELL

Directed by Taylor Sheridan | UK, Canada, USA | In English | 110 mins | MA15+

WINNER: BEST DIRECTOR, UN CERTAIN REGARD, CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Straight from Cannes, this intelligent crime drama with Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen is the directorial debut of screenwriter Taylor Sheridan (*Hell or High Water*, *Sicario*).

Renner (*The Hurt Locker*) plays Cory Lambert, a wildlife officer in Wyoming. When he discovers the body of a young Native American woman while hunting, the FBI come knocking. Rookie agent Jane Banner (Olsen, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Ingrid Goes West*) is assigned to the case and requires Lambert's aid in the inhospitable, frozen terrain. As the puzzle pieces come together, we build a picture of both the present and past of this unforgiving and violent land. Superbly directing his own screenplay, Sheridan brings his trademark sense of place, fully drawn characters and real emotion to bear. This stylish, potent mystery also features the music of Nick Cave and Warren Ellis.

"Sheridan also possesses a fully scaled vision of our society, and of what's gone wrong in it. He's drawn to men of violence on both sides of the law, and to the intricacies of crime, but what he's really drawn to is depicting those things as an expression of our inner hunger. He's a bristling entertainer with the soul of a noir poet." – VARIETY

WHITNEY 'CAN I BE ME'



FRI 8 SEPT 8.30PM NAMBUCCA HEADS
SUN 17 SEPT 2.00PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by Nick Broomfield, Rudi Dolezal | UK, USA | In English | 111 mins | M

A gripping documentary on the all-too-short life of powerhouse performer Whitney Houston from UK documentarian Nick Broomfield and music video director Rudi Dolezal.

Broomfield (*Heidi Fleiss: Hollywood Madam*, SFF 1996; *Aileen Wuornos: The Selling of a Serial Killer*, SFF 1993) and Dolezal bring us never-before-seen backstage footage from the height of Houston's career. Touching, intimate interviews with the star, friends and colleagues (including her real-life bodyguard), round out this impressive recounting of a life so promising, and ultimately so tragic. The film doesn't evade her drug taking, troubled marriage or rumours of her bisexuality, nor does it ignore her undeniable talent (including several music clips). The title aptly illustrates the film's resonant core: that of a remarkable talent from the 'hood, struggling to keep her identity in a world of compromises and demands.

"*Can I Be Me* is a touching, empathetic portrait of Houston as a daughter, mother, powerhouse performer and flawed human being." – DAILY TELEGRAPH

MOUNTAIN



SAT 16 SEPT 12.00PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by Jennifer Peedom | Australia | In English | 70 mins | All Ages

An epic cinematic and musical collaboration between *Sherpa* filmmaker Jennifer Peedom and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, that explores humankind's fascination with high places. Narrated by Willem Dafoe.

Fellow collaborators to this unique project are British writer Robert Macfarlane (author of the award-winning *Mountains of the Mind*) and leading high altitude cinematographer Renan Ozturk (*Sherpa, Meru*). Richard Tognetti's recorded score is stunning; soaring as the camera climbs vertiginous slopes or swoops across rocky peaks. With all this earthly beauty, it's hard to believe that only three centuries ago, the idea of conquering a peak was considered crazy. Mountains were once solely places of peril, not beauty. The absorbing narration traces our modern day fascination – our irresistible and sometimes fatal attraction to the dizzying heights. Peedom's follow-up to *Sherpa* (SFF 2015) is a suitably uplifting, symphonic ode to high places.

"A sublime rush of adrenaline and orchestral beauty" – THE GUARDIAN

Screens with short film *Snow*

HOPE ROAD



SAT 9 SEPT 12.00PM SAWTELL

Directed by Tom Zubrycki | Australia | In English | 104 mins | All Ages

In the latest film from festival favourite Tom Zubrycki, a South Sudan refugee returns to his village to build a school, but his ambitious plans are challenged when life intervenes

A refugee from the Sudanese civil war, Zacharia (one of the 'Lost Boys' of Sudan) lives in Sydney with his wife and daughter. He desperately wants to do something for his former village, now in the newly created nation of South Sudan. His dream is to build a much-needed school, enlisting the backing of numerous Australians. Janet, a dedicated supporter, joins him on a 40-day fundraising walk from Tweed Heads to Sydney along with filmmaker Zubrycki. But will this strategy raise the funds they need? Thwarted by escalating conflict back in South Sudan, and shocked by a broken relationship, Zac must decide what's important in his life.

Join us after the screening for a Q&A session with director Tom Zubrycki

FUN MOM DINNER



SAT 16 SEPT 7.30PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by Alethea Jones | USA | In English | 81 mins | 18+

Four mothers connected by the elementary school their children attend decide to take a break from family life. A shared joint dissipates early tensions, and the women hit the town for a wine-soaked, fun night out. What follows is an increasingly rowdy party as the women, getting more inebriated, end up in an escalating series of madcap situations. Discussions on sex, marriage, vajazzling and the state of their careers and love lives – as impacted by being a mom – lead these women to the discovery that they are defined by far more than motherhood. Toni Collette and Molly Shannon, with Katie Aselton and Bridget Everett, are excellent in this delightfully naughty comedy with heart.

"There's clearly a family resemblance here to Jones' award-winning short *Lemonade Stand*, a typically Australian bit of comedy quirkiness that also demonstrates Jones' knack for production design, whimsy and gross-out humor. With talents like those, she ought to go far in this town." – THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

– THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

POP AYE



SAT 9 SEPT 2.30PM SAWTELL

SAT 16 SEPT 2.00PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by Kirsten Tan | Singapore, Thailand | Thai with English subtitles | 102 mins | M

WINNER: SPECIAL JURY AWARD, SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2017

A downtrodden architect and his long-lost elephant take a road trip across Thailand to find their childhood home in this offbeat and very funny Sundance screenwriting award-winner.

Once a cutting edge architect renowned for his progressive buildings, Thana is having a hard time at work and with his wife. Wandering the streets of Bangkok he comes across Pop Aye, the elephant he grew up with in rural Thailand. Thana promptly buys the elephant and the unusual pair set off on a road trip back towards the idyll of their home village. In her debut feature Kirsten Tan has total control, taking advantage of the beautiful scenery, wonderful actors and a charismatic elephant to tell a story that is unsentimental but genuinely moving.

"Warm yet unsentimental, graced with the lightest touch of surrealism, this opening-night offering from Sundance's world cinema dramatic competition is a joy." – VARIETY

Screens with short film

Finding Maawirangga in Sawtell

THE TEACHER



SUN 17 SEPT 12.00PM PORT MACQUARIE

Directed by Jan Hřebejk | Slovakia | In Slovak | In English | 102 mins | M

WINNER: BEST FILM, BEST ACTRESS, BEST SCREENPLAY and AUDIENCE AWARD, CZECH ACADEMY AWARDS 2017

Zuzana Maurery gives an award-winning performance as an unscrupulous school teacher in this crowd-pleasing dark comedy set in Communist era Czechoslovakia.

Politically connected Maria Drazdechova's (Maurery) arrival at a school quickly leads to competitive sucking up. By carefully noting the professions of her students' parents, the unscrupulous teacher has a directory of services available to her: household repairs, free haircuts, grocery shopping and even the international smuggling of baked goods are all services required by Maria in exchange for favouritism. But some parents are unable, or unwilling, to give, setting the scene for a conflict between those who have acquiesced and those who resist. Hřebejk (*Cosy Dens*, SFF 2000; *Divided We Fall*, SFF 2001) is in top satirical form and uses this microcosm to make cutting points about society at large.

"A surefire crowd pleaser... Maurery handles her character, a nasty piece of work to be sure, with such natural aplomb that she makes Mrs Drazdechova not only perfectly credible but pretty scary too." – SCREENDAILY

ON BODY AND SOUL



SAT 9 SEPT 5.00PM SAWTELL

Directed by Ildikó Enyedi | Hungary | In Hungarian with English subtitles | 116 mins | 18+

WINNER: GOLDEN BEAR, BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2017; SYDNEY FILM PRIZE, SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Winner of the Sydney Film Prize, *On Body and Soul* is about the unconventional romance between two co-workers who discover that each night they have exactly the same dreams. Endre is the director of a Budapest abattoir. Slightly grizzled, he seems to have lived an eventful life that has eventually come to a stage of solitude. When Maria begins working as a quality controller at his company, Endre is clearly attracted to her. Their interactions, however, are extremely awkward. By chance, the two discover that each night they share exactly the same beautiful dream of a pair of deer frolicking in the woods. Despite their incredulity, they feel compelled to attempt a romance to match their shared visions, but real life proves more difficult. Enyedi contrasts idyllic dream sequences with gory images in the slaughterhouse, creating a compelling metaphor for the struggle for human connection.

"A determinedly eccentric but intermittently startling misfit romance that marks a singular return to feature filmmaking for Hungarian writer-director Ildikó Enyedi after an 18-year gap." – VARIETY

UNA



SUN 17 SEPT 4.30PM

Directed by Benedict Andrews | UK | In English | 94 mins | M

Una stars Oscar-nominee Rooney Mara and Emmy-winner Ben Mendelsohn, and is based on David Harrower's play *Blackbird*. It starts when Una (Mara) tracks down Ray (Mendelsohn) at his place of work. Fifteen years earlier, when Una was a minor, Ray sexually abused her – a crime he was arrested and imprisoned for. Una's arrival threatens to destroy Ray's new life which he's desperate to preserve. Is Una there for revenge, or is there some more surprising motivation at play? In this intense emotional drama, the effect of the past has led to tragic circumstances, and two severely damaged people are left in a fiery standoff. Mara and Mendelsohn both deliver extraordinary, nuanced and extremely brave performances. Daringly taking on taboos, director Benedict Andrews handles this sensitive material with precision. *Una* is a film that will stay with you for a long time.

"Uncompromising, unforgettable stuff"

– HERALD SUN

"An agile, vicious piece of work that's anchored by extraordinary performances from Rooney Mara and Ben Mendelsohn..." – INDIEWIRE

THE BEGUILLED



SAT 9 SEPT 7.30PM SAWTELL

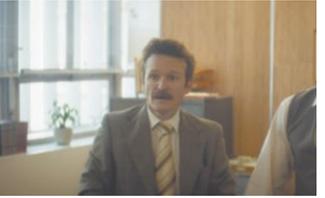
Directed by Sofia Coppola | USA | In English | 91 mins | M

Fresh from its Cannes Competition berth, Sofia Coppola's new film is a seductive thriller set in the Civil War era starring Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst and Elle Fanning.

Employing her distinctive aesthetic and sensual style, with *The Beguiled* Sofia Coppola adapts Thomas Cullinan's Civil War-set novel into a tale of desire, jealousy and revenge. The film is set in 1864, three years into the Civil War, at a Southern girls' boarding school. In these perilous times, the girls left at the school are those with nowhere else to go, and they are under the care of Martha Farnsworth (Kidman). When one of the younger girls discovers an injured enemy soldier, it is decided that the 'Christian thing to do' would be to take him in until he is sufficiently recovered. As the soldier, John McBurney (Farrell), recovers he becomes the subject of fascination for the girls and women of the house. The prim and proper environment is taken over with sexual tension and rivalries. In this society of virtually no men, the 'real Southern hospitality' meted out to McBurney is of a quite unusual kind. Coppola and the excellent cast deal with this material with relish, creating a film filled with eerie tension and flashes of mischievous humour.

"*The Beguiled* is Coppola's bloodiest, most visceral movie to date, and it is also one of her best." – GLOBE AND MAIL

SHORT FILMS



I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO



SUN 10 SEPT 1.15PM SAWTELL

Directed by Raoul Peck | France, USA, Belgium, Switzerland | In English | 93 mins | M

NOMINATED: BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE, ACADEMY AWARDS 2017

Narrated by Samuel L Jackson, this mesmerising Oscar-nominated film channels the impassioned words of writer James Baldwin, one of the most incisive commentators on race in America.

People's Choice Documentary Award-winner at Toronto and a box office success in the US, *I Am Not Your Negro* takes as its starting point notes for a book Baldwin intended to write about the lives and assassinations of his friends Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Medgar Evers. That unwritten book finds life in this remarkable film which melds Baldwin's unpublished writing (powerfully narrated by Jackson), archival footage of his eloquent analysis of the times, and contemporary Black Lives Matter protests. Haitian Peck (*Lumumba; Moloch Tropical*, SFF 2010) is a stridently political filmmaker and here his profound and poetic cine-essay is, as The New York Times describes it, "life-altering".

"It is a striking work of storytelling. By assembling the scattered images and historical clips suggested by Baldwin's writing, *I Am Not Your Negro* is a cinematic séance, and one of the best movies about the civil rights era ever made." – THE GUARDIAN

– THE GUARDIAN

THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Directed by Derin Seale | Australia | In English | 13 mins | 18+

The delusional patient of a psychiatrist believes he is actually the psychiatrist. As they each attempt to treat each other, the session gets out of control.

THE WALL

Directed by Nick Baker and Tristan Klein | Australia | In English | 6 mins | 15+

Life as they knew it was all soon to end, when the darkness arrived and began to descend...

Fleeing their city, a grandmother and her grandson reach a tall, endless wall.

FINDING MAAWIRANGGA

Directed by Dylan River | Australia | English with Wubuy and Kriol with English subtitles | 15 mins | 15+

Indigenous actor Tom E Lewis, once uprooted from his Arnhem Land home, returns after 40 years, re-connecting through the Murrungun songline.

SNOW

Directed by Alex Murawski | Australia | In English | 20 mins | 15+

Sam leaves a girl injured, lying in the snow. The weight of his departure presses upon him, so he returns to find her - before it's too late.

Recipient of the 2016 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship.

THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE



SUN 10 SEPT 3.15PM SAWTELL

Directed by Aki Kaurismäki | Finland, Germany | In Finnish, English, and Arabic with English subtitles | 98 mins | 15+

WINNER: SILVER BEAR BEST DIRECTOR, BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Aki Kaurismäki's new film is a heart-warming, funny, melancholic tale of the friendship between a Syrian refugee and a restaurant-owner.

Khaled, a young Syrian refugee, arrives in Helsinki as a stowaway and applies for asylum. Meanwhile, travelling salesman Wikström decides to change his life, and invests in an unprofitable restaurant. When the authorities deny Khaled's application for asylum, he decides to stay on illegally, and it is then that he meets Wikström outside the restaurant.

Kaurismäki says that the film is an attempt to shatter the "way of only seeing refugees as either pitiful victims or arrogant economic immigrants invading our societies." With his unique sense of humour and fundamentally optimistic vision of the world, he achieves a great deal more than that.

"It's difficult to imagine anyone coming away from Aki Kaurismäki's gorgeous tragicomedy about the refugee crisis in Europe... without feeling gentle elation sparked by the story's evidence of human kindness amid cruelty and indifference" – THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Screens with short film *The Wall*